

County of San Luis Obispo

Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board



2156 Sierra Way, Suite A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805) 781-5914

**Agricultural Liaison
Advisory Board (ALAB)**

Positions/Members/Terms

CHAIR: R. Don Warden

District One: Ovitt Appt.
Dan Westigard, (1/09)

District Two: Gibson Appt.
Lisen Bonnier (1/11)

District Three: Lenthall Appt.
Tom Ikeda (1/09)

District Four: Achadjian Appt.
Bill Struble (1/11)

District 5: Patterson Appt.
Christine Maguire (1/09)

Agriculture Finance Rep.
Mark Pearce (8/10)

Cattlemen Rep.
Dick Nock

Coastal San Luis RCD Rep.
Jean-Pierre Wolff (8/11)

Direct Marketing/Organic Rep.
Eric Michielssen (4/12)

Environmental Rep.
Anne McMahon (5/11)

Farm Bureau Rep.
R. Don Warden

Nursery Rep.
David Pruitt (4/12)

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD Rep.
Charles Pritchard (1/10)

Vegetable Rep.
Richard Quandt (4/12)

Wine Grape Rep.
Neil Roberts (4/12)

County Agricultural Commissioner
Bob Lilley, *Ex-Officio*

U.C. Coop. Extension / Farm Advisor
Mary Bianchi, *Ex-Officio*

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 5, 2009

Guests Present: James Caruso, Mike Wulkan, Dee Lacey

Absent Members: Mark Pearce

1. Call to Order: 7:15 PM. Quorum Present

2. Open comment: Dick Nock indicates Williamson Act subventions once again threatened to be cut from the state budget.

3. Member/agency reports

- Agriculture Department (Brenda Ouwerkerk)
 - January 20, 2009, BOS will be discussing budget issues. Ag Dept is proposing to discontinue bait sales to meet level of budget cuts that has been requested. The Kings County Ag Commissioner's office will still have bait available. Ag Dept has enough bait to get through summer and possibly fall of 2009. Bait program is barely self funding. Service levels for other departments will also be discussed.
 - Planning Department priority list will also be discussed at Board of Supervisors (BOS) January 20, 2009. Ag clusters may be a topic of discussion.
 - 2008 crop report surveys have gone out, growers are encouraged to fill out and return surveys to the Ag Commissioner's office.
 - New and revised ALAB member contact information was provided for review and update.
- Richard Quandt-
 - In follow-up to the presentation at the December 1 ALAB meeting, members Tom, Richard, Neil and Eric met with Dana Lilley, Co. Planning and Building Dept. regarding group quarters for farm worker housing. Five mile limitation identified as a potential problem. Meeting was useful.

4. Minutes: December 1, 2008 ALAB minutes approved. Motion – Bill. 2nd
– Tom. Approved: Unanimous.

5. County's Conservation and Open Space Element update, James Caruso and Mike Wulkan, Department of Planning and Building

- General plans are required by state law to include Conservation and Open Space Elements. Conservation of natural resources is the main focus of the draft Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE). There is overlap with other general plan elements. The element is a policy document.
- The BOS requested an update and consolidation of the elements to respond to changing conditions. Some of the previous elements were last updated in 1974. Additionally, there is the need to apply the BOS adopted strategic growth principles. Primary purpose of the COSE is to establish policies to preserve and protect important natural resources and balance human needs and ensure economic vitality.
- The Ag Element will be a separate stand alone document. Exhibit of proposed Ag Element on the planning dept website.
- Open Space Element extracted from existing Agriculture and Open Space Element and merged with Conservation Element to create the Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE). Current draft refers back to previous policies for cross referencing ease.
- Public comment ends February 27, 2009, for comments to be included in next draft. Public hearing draft released in April. PC hearings May. BOS August. Comments accepted throughout process.
- The COSE will be an electronic document. CDs are available for \$6, or limited number of paper copies for \$25 from the Co. Planning and Building Department, or available at Co. Libraries for viewing.
- This group should focus on water resources chapter including policy WR1.6, "Groundwater management strategies will give priority to agricultural operation. Protect agricultural water supplies from competition by incompatible development through land use controls."
- Small rural water companies compete with agriculture for water resources.
- Soils chapter also incorporates existing policies from Ag and Conservation Elements.
- Throughout document, Ag Element policies are referenced to reinforce policy consistency.
- MOTION: Mary, 2nd Neil - to create subcommittees to review and develop recommended comments for the Biological Resources, Soils Resources, Visual Resources and Water Resources draft chapters of the COSE. Motion passes 7 to 5 (2 abstaining). (See attached for subcommittee membership)

6. Revisions to ALAB Organizational Structure and Operating Guidelines, Brenda Ouwerkerk, Ag Dept

- Brenda discussed proposed revisions to ALAB Organizational Structure and Operating Guidelines. Members provided comment and recommended changes. Members specifically discussed **Section VIII. Agenda and Meeting Minutes**: proposed language regarding discussion of specific development projects was deleted as the Chair has the authority to either bring requests for discussion of individual projects to the members to decide to place on the agenda, or the chair may place items on the agenda. Requests will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- MOTION: Dick, 2nd Neil - to approve document as presented with recommended revisions (see attached). Unanimously approved.

- Group discussion of date and time change. Meeting day to generally remain first Monday of the month.
- MOTION: Chuck, 2nd Tom – to change meeting start time from 7 pm to 6 pm. Motion passes 13 to 1.

7. Special Recognition – Dan Westigard

- Certificate of appreciation from BOS presented to Dan by Chairman Warden for over 10 years of service. Dan shared his observations of ALAB interaction for new members. He indicated that ALAB has been an amicable group over the years. “We have held back on individual views, in a lot of cases, that were contrary to good feelings and we don’t tear down people or their ideas. We try to work towards a consensus. May you continue on that path”.

8. NEXT MEETING – February 2, 2009

Future agenda items

- Subcommittee reports and comment formalization for COSE Biological Resources and Soil Resources chapters (February 2)
- Subcommittee reports and comment formalization for COSE Visual Resources and Water Resources chapters (March 2)
- February’s meeting will start at 6:00pm

Meeting adjourned: 9.45 PM